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Head to toe, B-Method will work you over



Dyer: Schilling right to shred trolls

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City rats found covered with Black Death fleas

Carriers. The city's vermin carry a host of fleas and disease.

Rats roaming New York City carry fleas capable of spreading diseases as deadly as the bubonic plague, a new report revealed.

A study by a Cornell and Columbia University research team found at least 500 Oriental rat fleas hitching rides on the 133 rats researchers Matthew Frye and Cadhla Firth caught at five sites around Manhattan.

While the rats themselves are a never-ending nuisance for New Yorkers, the critters they carry can be even more problematic. Historically blamed for the bubonic plague pandemic that wiped out millions in Europe during the 14th century, fleas found on New York rats have created the same circumstances for transmission.

"I wouldn't say we are at risk of anything like a plague," Frye told Metro. "But certainly there's a risk of people coming into contact with other pathogens."

While the diseases and their impact on public health are real, the bacterium most commonly blamed for the plague in the United States is mostly found in fleas in the American Southwest carried by squirrels and prairie dogs.





Quoted

"We were absolutely surprised at the number of fleas we collected."

Fry

The city's Health Department dismissed the notion that the Black Death can make a comeback in the Big Apple.

"There has never been a case of locally acquired plague in New York City — or anywhere east of the Mississippi — in over 50 years," the agency said Tuesday. "Additionally, no plague-infected rat has ever been found in New York City. Plague requires extreme circumstances besides fleas to pose a threat to human health, and those circumstances do not exist here."

Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity found the fleas can also transmit Rickettsia, which can cause spotted fevers or typhus, and several species of Bartonella, which can look like the flu and have recurring symptoms, including high fevers.

"We were absolutely surprised at the number of fleas we collected," Frye said, adding they found an average of four per rat. "We didn't think we'd find them at such a high number."



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Visit Metro.us to learn more about rats in New York City.

Tourism troubles. Guides fear being replaced by tapes



Facing threats of layoffs, and losing their livelihood to automatic recordings, New York City tour guides rallied on the steps of City Hall on Tuesday in hopes of saving their jobs.

The Daily News first reported last month that Gray Line, the bus company that operates doubledeck sightseeing tours, sent a memo to 150 tour guides that "mass layoffs" would start on March 11.

The company is in contract negotiations with TWU Local 225, the union that represents the tour guides. Three years ago, the company slashed pay by about \$3 an hour for guides during a contract dispute.

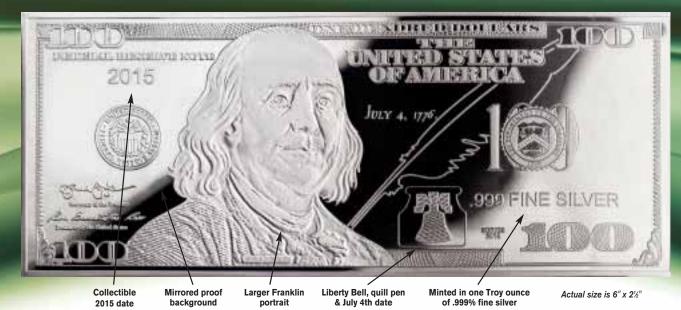
The average tour guide now makes about \$16.50 an hour, according to the Daily News.

"Gray Line claims to be 'truly the local expert,' but it's licensed New York City tour guides who make that statement accurate," James Muessig, TWU Local 225 Section Chair for Tour Guides/Customer Service Agents, said in a statement. "If the tour guides are replaced by taped machines, the tourists would be better off reading Wikipedia on the subway."

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, who rallied with the guides and unions, said tour guides shouldn't be bullied by the bus operators in the city's booming tourism industry, set to reach \$45 billion a year by this year's end.

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Manhattan

Window washer falls to his death from fifth floor in Lower Manhattan

A window washer fell to his death on Tuesday afternoon while working in Lower Manhattan, police said.

Officials said the man was leaning out of a fifth-floor window at 335 Greenwich Street to clean a window when he fell out at around 1:10 p.m. and landed on the pavement.

Paramedics rushed to the corner of Jay and Greenwich streets and took the man, who was not identified by Tuesday afternoon, to a hospital in Downtown Manhattan, where he was declared dead.

Witnesses told the Daily News that the man might have been working on the window without a harness. METRO

Food pantries are short on resources to fight hunger

Food. There's plenty of unused food available, but it's hard getting it to those in need.

New York, the city of fivestar restaurants, deli sandwiches and street meat on nearly every corner, is also the city where more than 1.4 million people don't have enough food to eat.

On Tuesday, representatives from City Harvest picked up bread from Fairway and prepared food from Mount Sinai-St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, and marked their 500 millionth pound of food delivered by the organization.

"If you're riding the subway and thinking about what to eat for lunch today, there's people who don't have the money to do that," said Matthew Reich,



vice president of food sourcing for City Harvest. "They're thinking about paying their rent and MetroCard, and that's a tremendous pressure. We're not feeding the homeless, we're feeding the working poor of New York."

To feed every hungry New Yorker, agencies would need to double their services to double the amount of work they're doing, said Reich, adding that there is plenty of food available in the U.S. It's just not getting to those who need it but can't afford it.

City Harvest provides fresh produce and food staples to 500 food programs in New York City, including soup kitchens, and day care and senior centers.

Reich said about 100 billion pounds of food is wasted across the U.S. every year, and every year about 300 million pounds of fruits and vegetables in

Quoted

"If you're riding the subway and thinking about what to eat for lunch today, there's people who don't have the money to do that." Reich

New York state are left unharvested or unsold.

City Harvest gathers food from farmers and distributors, many in-state and along the Eastern Coast, with some as far away as Texas and California. Reich said City Harvest collects a lot of carrots from Quebec farmers because carrots need to be a certain length and diameter to be sold in stores.



WENDY JOAN
BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy Riddlecombe@metro.us



Suspect charged in transgender murder

Harlem. Brooklyn man arrested in 2013 death of 21-year-old Islan Nettles.

A 24-year-old Brooklyn man was indicted on manslaughter charges Tuesday for his involvement in the August 2013 death of Islan

Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance said James Dixon, 24, of Brooklyn, punched Nettles, a 21-yearold transgender woman, in the head after arguing on a Harlem street. She later died from her injuries.

Vance did not give any motive for the attack. Press reports at the time called it a hate crime.

Dixon was in a group of at least seven men walking up Frederick Douglass Boulevard after

History of the case

Another man, Paris Wilson, was arrested at the time of the attack and charged with misdemeanor assault. according to the Daily

The charges against Wilson were dropped after Dixon confessed, but said he was too drunk to remember what happened.



midnight on Aug. 17, according to the indictment and court proceedings.

Dixon punched Nettles in the head, and she hit the back of her head on the pavement, knocking her unconscious. Dixon continued hitting Nettles, adding to her already serious brain injury, the DA's office said. Dixon fled after the encounter.

Nettles was declared brain dead on Aug. 20 and taken off life support two days later.

A grand jury indicted Dixon on charges of manslaughter in the first and second degree, and assault in the first degree.

He is being held without bail until his next court appearance March 19. metro

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Pollution

China hopes environment chief will be breath of fresh air

One year after "declaring war" on pollution, China has appointed an inexperienced outsider as its new environment minister tasked with breathing life

into a massive cleanup campaign that even optimists say will take decades to complete.

Beijing has vowed to reverse the damage done to its skies, rivers and soil during China's three-decade dash for growth, putting its under-resourced environment ministry under pressure to deliver results.

Leading that drive will be Chen Jining, 51, an



environmental scientist and president of China's prestigious Tsinghua University, who was appointed the country's Minister of Environmental Protection on Friday

As China's annual parliament opens this week, Chen will need to show an increasingly angry public that the environment remains one of the top priorities, while reassuring thousands of regional delegates that there is still room for economic growth.

All-white jury selected in marathon bombing trial



Finally. Opening statements are set for Wednesday.

An all-white jury that includes a restaurant manager, several retirees and a social worker will hear the trial of accused Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, which gets underway with opening statements on Wednesday.

The two-month-long jury-selection process wrapped up on Tuesday when lawyers for both sides winnowed the pool to 10 women and eight men. They will form the panel of 12 jurors and six alternates who will hear a trial that may run into June.

Tsarnaev, 21, is charged with killing three people and injuring 264 with a pair of homemade bombs at the race's crowded finish line on April 15, 2013, and with fatally shooting a po-

Jury selection process

The jury selection process began in early January when more than 1,350 potential jurors filled out questionnaires on their ties to the attack and their views on the death penalty.

 To be eligible, candidates needed not to have formed a set opinion of Tsarnaev's guilt and to be willing to consider voting for execution if he was found guilty.

lice officer three days later. If he is found guilty, the jury selected on Tuesday will determine whether to sentence him to death.

Tsarnaev and his family immigrated to the U.S. from Russia's Chechnya region a decade before the attack. They settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, just outside Boston. REUTERS

Email flap

Democrats scramble to defend Hillary Clinton

Democrats scrambled to contain the fallout from revelations that Hillary Clinton may have violated the spirit of federal records laws by using her personal email for work while secretary of state.

Her bypassing of official communications at the State Department fed a political narrative that Republicans want to use to damage Clinton, that the wife of former President Bill Clinton is obsessed with secrecy and has something to hide.

Clinton was President
Barack Obama's first-term
secretary of state from
2009 to early 2013. During
her tenure, she used a
personal email account,
officials now acknowledge,
in what at the least may
have been a technical
violation of laws requiring
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Samah Hamdi. 'Women must do what they choose and believe in'

This is the third in a Metro series leading up to International Women's Day on March 8.



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Samah Hamdi, a 27-yearold woman from Egypt, made a video earlier this year in which she walks around Cairo wearing a wedding dress. She ate in a restaurant, took a ride in the metro — all to address the social stigma surrounding unmarried women in her country. "My interest is to confront society and break its taboos," she said.

Why did you start wearing a wedding dress?

The women in our society have always been placed under the magnifying glass. Always molded and with reduced integrity and treated as something inanimate, as if God created women to achieve the goals of others.

Always demanded to please others without taking care of her ambitions. We are pressed, going to a college which people choose. Doing what others want. Dressed the way they want. Even thinking the same. That's where my idea came from — pressure we are under all the time, a confiscation of our being. The woman is programmed as a supreme target: to be married.

So, it's not just about marriage?

Yes, marriage is just an example. The idea is to refuse the dissemination of ideas on women. Everyone in our society believes man is the only person who is

right; other opinions are wrong. I tried to say we both can be true. Everyone has different opinions and ideas that cannot be imposed on others.

What is the reaction to the wedding dress?

People are petrified and just stare. The elderly started whispering with their sons. Street vendors downtown have hurled verbal harassments. But women in the metro tried to talk to me and even have a small party. The video I made of myself walking around Cairo in a wedding dress won the 25th Youth Salon Arts award and was treated as an "innovative" idea. DMTTRY BELYAEV / MWN



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Four things you need to know

Justice Department finds racial bias in Ferguson police practices

The U.S. Justice Department on Tuesday concluded that the Ferguson, Missouri police department routinely engages in racially biased practices, according to a law enforcement official familiar with the department's findings.

The investigation into the police department began in August after the shooting of unarmed African-American teen Michael Brown by a white police officer in Ferguson sparked national protests. REUTERS

FAA wants to speed approval for commercial drones

The Federal Aviation Administration is seeking ways to speed up the approval process for commercial drone operations, but its efforts have been hindered by its lack of authority to review multiple applications on a group basis.

FAA Administrator Michael Huerta told a U.S. House aviation subcommittee that the agency could better address a backlog of 450 requests from companies seeking exemptions to use drones if it could approve a class of applications that have similar circumstances. REUTERS

Ex-CIA chief Petraeus to plead guilty

Former CIA Director David Petraeus has agreed to plead guilty to a single charge relating to mishandling classified information in a case arising from the ex-U.S. Army General's extramarital affair with a female Army Reserve officer, the Justice Department said on Tuesday.

Documents disclosing Petraeus's guilty plea were filed in federal court in Charlotte, North Carolina. The retired four-star general agreed to plead guilty to a charge of unauthorized removal and retention of classified material. REUTERS

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Snowden in talks on returning home to US: lawyer

A Russian lawyer for Edward Snowden said on Tuesday the fugitive former U.S. spy agency contractor who leaked details of the government's mass surveillance programs was working with American and German lawyers to return home.

Anatoly Kucherena, who has links to the Kremlin, was speaking at a news conference to present a book he has written about his client. Moscow granted Snowden asylum in 2013, straining already tense ties with Washington.

The United States wants Snowden to stand trial for leaking extensive secrets of electronic surveillance programs by the National Security Agency (NSA). Russia has repeatedly refused to extradite him.

Snowden has said in the past he would like to return home if he was assured he would

be given a fair trial. **REUTERS**

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Bad blood among the 'Voice' judges



Tensions are reportedly running high behind the scenes at "The Voice," no matter how chipper the chair-spinners look on the air. In particular, Adam Levine is apparently feuding with fellow judge Pharrell Williams, as Levine is "feeling shafted by Pharrell behind the scenes," a source tells

Radar Online. "Not only is Pharrell taking the contestants that Adam would have generally locked in with ease, but he is also a favorite among the production staff.'

Ouch. Nobody wants to feel like the production staff's passing them over for the newer, more behatted model. According to

the source, that staff may have good grounds for not favoring Levine: "Adam is just jaded after doing it for so many seasons," the source adds. "Production staff are saying that not only does Adam act like an a—hole, but he is totally jealous of Pharrell, and this season has brought out his true colors.'

Ryan Reynolds could use a nap



New dad Ryan Reynolds has some theories as to why he's so sleep-deprived lately. Or maybe he's just trying to put a positive spin on life with a newborn. "Our baby in particular is, we think, allergic to sleep, he tells Jimmy Fallon during an interview. "We think that she thinks she's protecting us from the sleep monsters. Like, 'Oh, I've got to keep them up or the sleep monsters will get them." Which, as adorable as that sounds, is asking for an awful lot of advanced, creative thinking for a 9-week-old.

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR



Sarah Silverman oversharing about boyfriend's privates

So some men apparently give their, ahem, members nicknames. That's a thing. I guess. But hey, I'm all for new opportunities for creativity. And you'd have to get pretty creative to top the name "Masters of Sex" star Michael Sheen gave

his, at least if girlfriend Sarah Silverman is to be believed. Completely unprompted, Silverman took to Twitter to announce, "My boyfriend named his penis. He named it 'The Great Christine Baranski,' which sounds like a mouthful, honestly.



Daily video



Everything wrong with 'After Earth'

OK, so Will Smith has already admitted that "After Earth" was a failure, but that doesn't mean we can't dissect it and maybe figure out what went wrong. Enter Cinema Sins with a look at everything wrong with M. Night Shyamalan's science-

fiction misfire. "This movie starts with a flash-forward that jumps to a flashback, then back to the forward only to then back up a bit and start the actual f-ing story," the beleaguered Cinema Sins narrator points out. And that is pretty damning. Honestly, though, one of the first sins they point out really is the worst: Jaden Smith's narration. Oof.



@ABFalecbaldwin: Attention residents of New Jersey: Your governor is for sale! To the highest bidder who

doesn't feel like sharing, Billy Eichner has some

pop predictions and John Cleese is impressed

@ElizabethHurley: Off to Chicago- brrrrrr.

will fund the Republican

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@HackedOffHugh: I don't do (have?) Instagram.

@billveichner: I feel like Meghan Trainor is this close to recording a fun little dance song called "National Pancake Day"

@JohnCleese: Vladimir Putin has become a true Superstar

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James Van Der Beek breaks down 'CSI: Cyber'

Interview. The former "Dawson's Creek" star joins the crime-fighting franchise to chase down some online baddies.

Though James Van Der Beek has been trying out sitcoms recently, with "Don't Trust the B— in Apartment 23" and "Friends with Better Lives," his latest project takes a more serious turn. He's playing an FBI agent on "CSI: Cyber," alongside Oscar-winner Patricia Arquette. The show follows a cybercrime squad assisted by a cyberpsychologist (Arquette). Van Der Beek tells us why you should follow him into the shadier corners of the online world.

Because he's trying something new: I love to shake it up. I can't do just one thing for too long. I had a great time doing comedy. I did it for three years. I had two shows picked up, and when I got this offer, I thought, "Maybe it is time to come full circle and come back to my dramatic roots"

Because it's more 'CSI': Three letters motivated me: "CSI." It's one of the biggest television fran-

chises in the world, so to

play a lead on something like that is a huge honor. I don't know what possessed CBS after my comedy work to think, "Hey, we need somebody to kick some ass in the show; why don't we offer it to that guy?" But I'm really glad they did.

Because it's not just going to be cops with laptops: A show about four people staring at a screen for an hour is generally not the most engaging television. This is a blend of cybercrime-fighting technology and





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research: The worst thing

you could do is be spout-



Get a taste of home, wherever you're from

Nowhere is New York City's diversity more visible than in its dining scene. When it comes to delicious ethnic restaurants, these places are the real deal, staffed by expatriates looking to share their culture.

Donostia

155 Ave. B. Donostia is where the Spaniards dine, specializing in authentic pintxos, the Basque version of tapas, with an emphasis on imported Spanish seafood conservas. The tortillas del dia are a delicious mini toasted sandwich bursting with fresh cheeses, meats or spreads. Definitely try the mussels in escabeche sauce. The bar offers an unbelievable array of vermouth and sherries — let the bartenders guide you to your new favorite drink.

Smorgas Chef

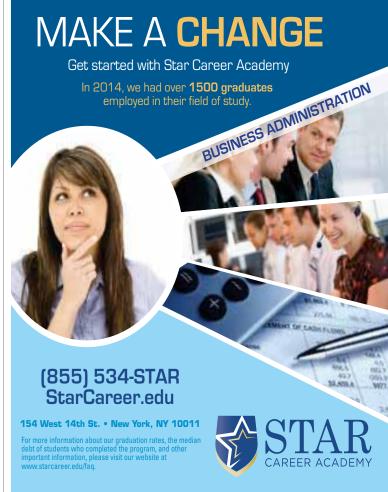
53 Stone St., 58 Park Ave.

Homesick Swedes, look no further. Many of the dishes have nostalgic appeal, such as Swedish meatballs, cured gravlaks and classic smorgasbord. The restaurants are committed to using local, sustainable ingredients from their own farm in the Catskills. Try the herring, the meatball platter or the Smorgas burger. End your meal with the Swedish princess cake, full of vanilla cream and raspberry preserve.

Texas de Brazil

1011 Third Ave. If you need your Brazilian churrascaria (steakhouse) fill, try the \$59.99 feast. The salad bar includes 50 items, including housemade Brazilian cheese bread. You will be swarmed by a troop of carvers generously serving various cuts of seasoned beef, lamb, pork, chicken and Brazilian sausage.











The Weekly Yelp. Doughnuts make New York City go 'round

Sure, doughnuts aren't exactly virtuous food, but walking while texting is pretty dangerous, and that doesn't seem to stop anyone. This week, we're throwing caution to the wind with a roundup of NYC's best fried treats.

Doughnut Plant

379 Grand St., Lower East Side

Yeast donuts, cake donuts, and let's not forget about the — yes, I'm about to say it — creme brulee donut. So freaking amazing! Crisp on the top, and the creamy delicious filling made this seriously

one of the best donuts I

have ever had. JAKE S.



14 W. 19th St., Flatiron District



The Nutella is every hazelnut-and-Nutella-lover's dream. It looks like a small sugar donut, but when you bite into it, an explosion of Nutella filling comes out. It's not thick like the one you see in the jar. It's rich, gooey and delicious. KRISTINE A.

Dough Loco

24 E. 97th St., East Harlem

My favorite is still the blood orange poppy seed, but the miso maple and the blackberry ginger snap cake donut are not very far behind. PAUL A.

The Donut Pub

203 W. 14th St., West Village

According to the list, their jelly donut is the one to try first. And

try first. And so I did. This was one seriously good donut. Perfectly sweetened, and with a great pillowy texture and just the right amount of sweet jelly, this jelly donut is one to try.

Yelp has been connecting people with great local businesses since 2004.



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Market watch

Most expensive



\$75M

10 West St. Penthouse

The most expensive property to come onto the market this week is a condo in Battery Park City, marketed by Dolly Lenz Real Estate. This eight bedroom, 10.5 bath penthouse is located at The Residences at the Ritz Carlton, and encompasses two penthouse units that can be combined. The unit features expansive skyline views and three private terraces.

Least expensive



\$249K

80 La Salle St. #14E

The least expensive property to come onto the market this week is a co-op in Morningside Heights, marketed by FH Millennium Group. This sunny studio unit features an eatin kitchen, oversize windows and views of Morningside Garden. The building offers a bike room, elevator, gym and laundry in the building.

StreetEasy.com is a New York based Real Estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.



Organize your life using the KonMari way

Here are the best gems from Marie Kondo's "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up."

ANDREA PARK

Marie Kondo is the Beyonce of Japan — a larger-than-life superstar. But unlike Beyonce, Kondo is a professional organizer. Her book, "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing," is making waves among Americans who want to learn how to live a neater and more Zen lifestyle.

We read the book and can vouch for its life-changing impact. Here are the lessons we learned from Kondo through her technique, which she calls the KonMari Method.

Get rid of unnecessary possessions

We've all heard this one before, but the KonMari method is to ask yourself if it "sparks joy." How can you tell? Don't think about whether or not you "might need it later" or if someone gave it to you as a gift — pick it up, touch it and decide if you feel a visceral joy for this item. If not, thank the item for serving its purpose to you (whether or not you actually used it or if it just gave you momentary joy when you purchased it) and toss it. Kondo is adamant that you must throw things away before you try to reorganize your



Put everything on the floor

Kondo says it's easier to assess an item if you take it out of hibernation. You'll be able to see it better, and it will be easier for you to pick up each item and touch it to see if it sparks joy.



Tidy in order

Tidying isn't emotionally easy, so Kondo recommends the following order: clothes, books, papers, random items and, lastly, mementos. The expert says we don't have as much attachment to clothes, so this order will help build up resistance to being overly sentimental.

Do big purges

Don't chip away at your mess. To avoid relapsing into your slobbish ways, do your big discards at once. Why? Kondo says when you tidy completely "you transform the scenery," and the tidiness will inspire you to keep it neat

Use shoeboxes

Kondo is against pricey storage containers, especially if they're not square or rectangular. She suggests using shoe-boxes instead because they are durable and the perfect size for small items. She even likes using the lids to store spices inside cabinets.

Kondo's timing couldn't be better — spring cleaning is just around the corner. Get ready for a "joy" ride!





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ON INSTAGRAM!



Behind Dsquared²

The designers on their Fall 2015 show

"We are going deep into our heritage, our culture and where we come from ... way back."



establishing their label — and they're not done yet. It's been a highly festive

Interview. Dean

still setting the

and Dan Caten are

trend 20 years after

few weeks for Dean and Dan Caten, who not only celebrated the 20th anniversary of their Milanbased label Dsquared2 but also their 50th birthdays.

Cherished by A-listers like Madonna, Řihanna and Justin Timberlake, the Canadian brothers have ventured from the label's origins in menswear into womenswear, accessories, kidswear, eyewear and perfumes. The identical twins even have their own restaurant in Milan, called Ceresio 7. We caught up with them right before their Fall 2015 show.

Why did you choose to set up your label in

Dan: Milan is an international fashion capital, and we wanted the clothes to be made in Italy so it was easier for us to look for factories and producers. Also, our father was Italian. [He shortened his surname from Catenacci when he moved to Canada.]

What was the moment you knew it would work?

Dan: When we did our very first collection, we were turned down from the showroom who had ordered it in the beginning, and we thought that was the end. So we set up a stand in a fair in Paris, and we sold the collection on our own. After those first four days, we actually went home with half a million dollars of orders. From then on, we had really good orders from really good clients. So we thought, "Hmm, seems like it's going to work."

What was the most challenging moment for you as a duo?

Dean: I think the big challenge was the life we had as kids, so we were well-prepared for anything that would happen in our job. Nothing was going to stop us; we weren't afraid of anything. We weren't



afraid of taking chances and risks. We work together, we live together, we go on vacation together. We are almost, in a weird way, a two-headed monster.

Which celebrity best embodies the spirit of your label?

Dean: Madonna gave us the stamp of approval for the world, and when she

What is your favorite collection so far?

Dan: It was "Star 24/7" [in 2003], which was our first women's collection. Nobody saw us coming, and it was the best casting ever. Naomi Campbell was the first one to come on board and we thought, "Naomi is doing it so it will work."



gives you the stamp, the world wakes up and says, "We should keep an eye on these boys." She embodies the brand the best because she always wants to be on the edge and always wants what's new. There's a reason that she's been number one for 25 years. She has that lasting power when most people just came and went.

What was your happiest moment?

Dan: I think one of our happiest moments was when we opened our first shop in Milan because it felt like, "Now we are here, we have bricks, we are right up with the big brands." It made us cry tears of joy!

Why did you choose to ask Mary J. Blige to sing at your 20th anniversary show last month?

Dean: Mary has one of the most beautiful voices in the world, and the song she sang, "One Love," is very inspiring and powerful. It kind of embodies everything we are as twins. We were so fortunate and happy she agreed to do it on our birthday.

Where would you like the brand to be in 20 years?

Dan: We feel like in the past 20 years, we have been building the foundation of the company and in the next 20 years — now that we have mastered our craft — we'd like to see it really expand and grow. We are ready to explode.

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Gizmos you'll always need in the car

Jumper cables and a spare tire are musts for your car. But these handy gadgets and contraptions will earn their spot in your glove compartment - in case of car breakdown or boredom. wanise martinez, mwn

Portable Battery

If you have a cellphone — and you probably do — it's pretty important that you have an external battery charger in your car. Rated in milliamp hours, or mAh, these gadgets work exactly like mobile batteries, offering extra hours if your phone is dead and you really need to call for help. The Anker Astro Mini 3200mAh runs with iPhone, iPad and Android, and it is a portable lipstick-size that promises to guarantee about seven hours of talk time for some phones and double bat-

tery to others. Staples.com, \$22.49



Imagine if you're driving alone, and your car gets stuck in some dark and eerie place. You really need to have a good flashlight with you. LED models are the best because they're small enough to fit inside your glove compartment, more reliable than other lights and bright enough to help you when you're in need — which also means you will avoid being in an accident with other vehicles that cannot see you. The Life Gear Eco-friendly LED Emergency Road Flares have a pack, with three of them, that provides 10,000 hours of LED technology, and they're pretty easy to use: just twist on and off. Amazon.com, \$5.89

Road Angel Gem

This little gadget will help you a lot because it can warn you about the speed limit and let you know about upcoming speed cameras. With an accurate database about the roads, the gizmo also warns you about hazards and accident black spots.

And the best part of all is that the Gem provides the user access to the "eAssist," a specialized service with an operator that will help you in case the driv-

er gets in trouble. RoadAngelGem. com, \$247



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to not only have the information, but also operate the locking and unlocking of the doors, checking the speed, and other features like starting the engine. All of this operates from the comfort of a smartphone app. Verizonwireless. com, from \$99 to \$199



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Block out some time for B-Method

Inside the Workout.

This seemingly mild class makes a lasting impression.

Terri Walsh has been developing her Active Resistance Training method for 25 years, precisely because she knows you don't have that kind of time.

"When people come to a class, they don't have time to dice things up into pieces anymore," the trainer says. "That's why it has to encompass flexibility, strength, endurance and cardio."

The B in B-Method, the name of her class at Crunch gym, stands for "block" — actually a pair of yoga blocks that she says is "how I trick people into the room." They're also the key to creating a workout with baked-in variable intensity. If you're not flexible, the blocks essentially bring the floor up to meet you; for someone more advanced, they make pushups tougher through extending range of motion by putting the floor farther away.

"Blocks can assist or become an agent of resis-



If you go

B-Method

Crunch 80 Leonard St., 220 W. 19th St. www.crunch.com

tance," Walsh explains.

By propping yourself up on the blocks during planks, keeping it pressed tightly between your hands

during lunges, squeezing them between your knees for sit-ups and more, you're creating four active resistance points: feet, navel, ribs and shoulders. Being conscious of keeping these engaged is your goal - not that you have to be reminded to keep your core tight when balance is almost always a factor.

The workout can also complement a yoga prac-

tice. "With yoga, there is

a lot of problems with hands, wrists, elbows and shoulders ... which weren't really meant to be treated like feet," Walsh explains. "So if you're a yogi, this is going to use the skills you have, but it's also going to build up the areas where you're weak and protect the areas that may have been overused."



EVA KIS @thisiskis

Inside the Workout

B-Method

For a week after this class, I was walking like the Tin Man looking for his oil can - but it wasn't because of pain. As promised, I didn't feel like I'd been "hit by a truck," but the muscles in my stomach, butt and thighs (inner and back) were so stiff that I genuinely needed help picking things up from the floor. (My shoulders and triceps were barking too, though not to the same extent.)

Walsh often had us place the blocks at asymmetrical spots — under one elbow and beneath the opposite knee for arm and leg extensions, which raises the difficulty level exponentially by forcing



you to abandon any hope of momentum assisting you. (That tactic would've sent you crashing off the blocks.) The hour-long class doesn't involve routines or set a strict pace; the idea is not to watch

yourself or the instructor in the mirror but to perform every movement mindfully.

The effect was to keep everything from the core out through each limb taut, always pushing on

the blocks as you curse every ounce of flesh you're having to balance on 4-by-6-inch foam platforms. They're propped under your butt to extend your usual stretches; they're under your elbows during reverse push-ups. They're wretched — and they get

The bottom line: You'll recognize many of the movements as the bread and butter of body-sculpting classes — what you'll be surprised by is what a difference a few inches make to how much harder you're working. As an exercise writer, variety in workouts is a job requirement, but I've not felt as worked over before or since B-Method.

H Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Not everyone is as truthful as you are. Don't believe everything you hear. Get your facts in order before you make a decision.

T Aries | March 21-April 20 Participation in group events will lead to friendships. Enter, enroll or volunteer within your community, and you will open the door to new possibilities.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 Don't sit on the sidelines if you have something to contribute. Keep your emotions in check and base your opinions on sound facts.

II Gemini | May 22-June 20 Without breaking the bank, there are ways to increase the comfort of your house. Make your home a welcome retreat.

Gancer | June 21-July 22 Consider making some substantial changes to your life. Keep personal information a secret. Someone will have ulterior motives.

€ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Deception is apparent. You'll end up in a vulnerable position if you get involved in a risky financial deal. Use your charisma to outmaneuver anyone.

M Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Expect important information to be withheld. Now is not the time to show emotion if you want to come out on top.

Get together with friends. The hectic routine will be detrimental to your health. Some physical activity will help alleviate stress.

M Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Make personal changes, but be diplomatic when discussing such matters with the people you live with. Be firm and considerate, but put your needs first.

₹ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Travel delays or minor roadblocks will prevent you from completing your

7 Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Some things cannot be rushed. You should use your powers of persuasion when discussing a possible deal with your employer.

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Be a leader. You are at your best when you make your own decisions and listen to your intuition. Being what someone else wants you to be will lead to disappointment. Eugenia last

How to play

Fill in the grid

so that every

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column and

every 3x3 box

reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

A few simple rules and a little courtesy can make commutes more enjoyable for everyone

With the overcrowding on the commuter rail, some riders really need reminders about common courtesy.

1) Give up your seat to an elderly person, an infirm person or a pregnant woman. It should be obvious, but time and time again, I see young and middleaged men who ignore people who need seats much more than they do.

2) Don't put your bags etc., on the seat next to you unless your bags are buying tickets.

3) Don't try to "hold" seats. This is not the high school bus.

4) If you are on the aisle seat of a threeseater, the middle seat is vacant and someone wants to sit down, just MOVE over. When there are lines of people waiting to board the train, you slow things down a lot by not just doing so.

5) If you do have to stand, please make sure your knapsack, purse etc., is not interfering with someone who is sitting down. PAT DEVLIN, VIA EMAIL



Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

9			7				6
1						4	7
	2		3		9		8
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contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. Visit us online at Metro.us. You solve the puzzle with

Use your smartphone ose your sinarprione to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



Crossword

Across

1 Transparent

6 Made crooked 10 Agree

14 Marilyn of the Met

15 Declare openly

16 Auction site 17 Cake decoration

18 Ristorante order

19 Poop out

20 Noncommital (hyph.)

22 Former JFK arrivals

23 Q.E.D. part

24 Width of a cir.

26 Consultant

30 Scramble up

34 Wildlife refuges

35 Debt securer

36 Seine moorage 37 Brenner Pass locale

38 Humors

40 Short-order orders

41 — Dawn Chong 42 It's seen in bars

43 Fanatic

44 Reflects

46 Weasel relatives

48 Crumb-toter 49 Kirk's helmsman

50 Trail mix

53 Oater feature

59 Flapjack chain 60 Queen beaters 27 The One-L Lama 28 Puff adder, e.g. 29 Tax orq. 30 British FBI 31 Hull's bottom 32 Rocker -- John

61 Debonair

62 Put away

63 High spirits

64 Ms. Barkin of film

65 Notified

66 Rank below marquis

67 Biased viewpoint

Down

1 Intel product

2 Bonkers 3 Viking name

4 Prince Charles' sister

5 Go backward

6 Fund-raiser 7 Banish from a flat

8 Jot down

9 Plays with idly

10 Flotsam and -

11 Long-legged wader

12 Homer's kid

13 Hurricane centers

21 Half a swing

25 Mr. Fleming

26 Bedside noise

33 Pauses

35 — -eared bunny 38 Borrow on 39 New World alliance 40 Morsel

42 Dad, to Grandpa

43 Minor injuries

45 Knocked

46 Shellfish

47 Totality 49 Villain's smile

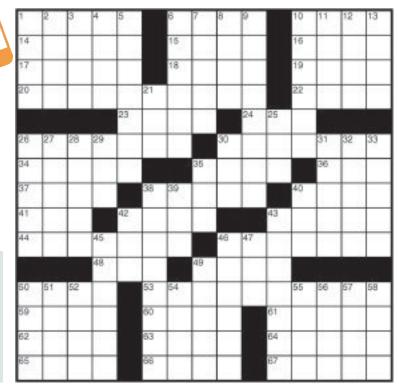
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No. 1

SPORTS NFL stronger by the day. The New York Daily News reported that Jets owner Woody Johnson "has been involved in serious internal discussions" with general manager Mike Maccagnan re-garding a Revis return to New York.

NBA power rankings | by James Toscano



(47-12)The Hawks responded to last week's demotion with three straight

wins, so we'll throw them back at the top. They've got Houston and Cleveland on tap for this week.

No. 2

Warriors (46-12)



A nice comeback win over the Celtics on Sunday night, but how could they let Boston go up by 26? They then lost to the Nets the next night, so they may be in a miniNo. 3

Blazers (39-19)



Big, big games coming up against the Clippers and Mavs will really tell us where they're at. They've recently taken down the Spurs and Thunder.

No. 4

Grizzlies (42-16)



Smoked by the Clippers on Friday, the Griz did what they had to do the next night and beat the Timberwolves.

No. 5

Rockets (41-18)



James Harden gets a game for kicking LeBron in the you-know-where. I guess you could say he took one for all of America, there.

No. 6

Cavaliers* (37-24)



LeBron will not forget getting kicked, nor will he forget the free throws he missed to lose the game to Houston. An angry LeBron might be a good thing for the

No. 7

(40-21)



Pretty hilarious to see Austin Rivers try to pick a fight with Kevin Garnett. KG has probably been messing with little Rivers since he played in Boston.

No. 8

Mavericks. (40-22)



It doesn't look like the Rondo era is going to last very long in Dallas. Not if he and his coach can't get on the same page.

No. 9

Raptors (38-22)



After five straight losses, the Raptors got a freebie in Philly. But let's see what they do Wednesday vs. a Cavs team now hot on their trail in the standings.

No. 10

Thunder (33-27)



I can't get the dent in Russell Westbrook's face out of my mind, but after successful surgery it doesn't sound like he'll be out long. Thunder don't have much wiggle room.

No. 11

Spurs (36-23)



After dropping four straight road games, the Spurs won the final two of their trip. Now with six straight at home, it's time they pull it together.

No. 12

Suns (31-30)



Just 2-5 since the trade deadline, and you really can't be surprised when you trade two of your three best guards.

No. 13

Bulls (37-24)



Last week, I called the Bulls maybe the toughest team in the NBA. Then Derrick Rose tore his meniscus and Jimmy Butler sprained his elbow.

No. 14

Pelicans (32-28)



The Pelicans had won five straight before falling to the Mavericks on the road on Monday. They're currently one game out of a playoff spot with the Thunder dealing with a couple of big injuries.

NFL



Jets will not raise ticket prices for '15

Ticket prices will not increase for Jets home games next season, the team announced Tuesday. Ticket prices will range from \$50 to \$162.50.

"After considering many factors, we determined to keep season ticket prices unchanged for the 2015 season," Jets president Neil Glat told the AP. MATT BURKE

NBA

Shaw canned in Denver

The Denver Nuggets fired Phil Jackson disciple Brian Shaw Monday, as the team just lost six games in a row and owns a 20-39 mark this season. According to ESPN. com, Shaw complained about "the maturity and professionalism" of some of the players on the team's roster but was told to "try and work through the issues." MATT BURKE





MLB



Eating on the iob not allowed in Mets' house

Mets players David Wright and Bobby Parnell threw away the lunch of teammate Noah Syndergaard Tuesday as the two team leaders were upset that the pitcher was eating while New York's intrasquad game was going on.

Newsday's Marc Craig tweeted out, "Syndergaard was contrite, but it was not a comfortable exchange. He told me he was stunned when Wright got on him for being in the clubhouse. As Wright scolded Syndergaard, Parnell took his plate, still piled with food, tossed it into a nearby trash can. I asked Parnell about the exchange [and he said], 'If a kid's not playing nice, you take his toys away.' MATT BURKE

MLB

Yanks will take a tie

The Yankees didn't wait long to bring the heroics.

In a mostly meaningless game against the Phillies to open their Grapefruit League schedule, the Bombers used a four-run ninth (on an RBI single by Jake Cave and threerun homer by Aaron Judge) to earn a 5-5 tie at Bright House Field Tuesday after the game was called following the Phils' scoreless

Chris Young and Garrett Jones were the only everyday players to accumulate base hits in the draw, with Adam Warren getting the start and retiring all but one batter over two innings.

New York outhit Philadelphia 13-8.

SCHILLING A WINNER AGAIN IN DEFENSE OF DAUGHTER

if you will, for his 216 career wins or 3,116 strikeouts or his three World Series rings. But, always, he should be remembered for the 1,987 words he wrote on Sunday about his daughter, every last one of which was blazing heat right down the center of the plate.

Last week, Schilling tweeted with a father's exuberance that his daughter had been accepted to college. There were dozens upon dozens of tweets from fans, sharing in his emotion and congratulating the former six-time All-Star. But those positive notes were overshadowed by responses that were rude, lewd and completely unacceptable. So Schilling took to his blog to respond, outing several of the tweeters, including one employed by the New York Yankees.

One tweet even mentioned raping Schilling's daughter, who is 17 years old and a senior in high

In a deep and passionate response, a riveting piece of prose that was short on much acumen but was right in every one of its words, Schilling nailed it. What he wrote was the right thing with the right heart, a man who is showing to be an ace on the mound as well as in fatherhood.

"The ignorance and pathetic lack of morals or of any integrity is astounding," Schilling wrote midway through his blog. "These aren't thugs, tough guys or bad asses, these aren't kids who've had it rough, they aren't homeless or orphans, these are pretty much ALL white, affluent, college attending children, and I mean children.

"A mistake is tweeting once and saying "damn, I'm an idiot" and taking it down. These guys? They're making conscious choices to cyberbully an amazing and beautiful young woman on the Internet, that none of them know by the way, because they don't like her dad or they somehow think saying words you can teach a 5-year-old is tough?'

He defended the dignity of his daughter, a



KRISTIAN **DYER A KRISTIANRDYER**

Opinion



young woman who has worked hard for a chance to play a sport in college. And even if she wasn't the daughter of a baseball

legend or a public figure, no father should have to read the innermost thoughts of deranged young men who have a

warped view of not just society, but women in general.

The young woman that they mocked and crudely degraded instead is worthy of our respect. She didn't rest on her famous last name, on the wealth of a man whose career has spanned now four decades as a player and in television as well as a small business owner. It would have been easy for her to rest on those laurels and coast through life with relative ease.

Instead, as her father

notes, she has trained for nearly 10 years for the chance to be a studentathlete, and there is no doubt, based off the maturity of how she's handled this situation, that she will be a testament to her college.

There was no doubt that Schilling was ever anything but a winner in the game of baseball, but now he has saved his best and gutsiest effort for the family he loves. His last bit of heroics here will forever be Schilling's greatest gem.

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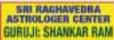
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